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ENGL-500: Research Methods
Fall 2011
Wednesdays, 5:30-8:15pm
PRH 14

Course Description and Objectives: This course aims to familiarize MA students with the basic research methods essential to the field of English literary studies. Using works of early modern English drama and travel writing as our primary texts, the course will prepare students to conduct archival research and employ the critical and theoretical approaches necessary to undertaking larger research projects in their area of specialization, including an MA Thesis, a Doctoral Dissertation, and articles for publication. Special attention will be paid to the international contexts of early modern English literature, including the influence of Spanish literary and colonial projects on English drama and travel writing.

Required Texts:

Shakespeare Editions:

- Hamlet* (Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism, Bedford/St. Martin's 1994)
- Othello* (Arden Shakespeare, Third Series 2001)
- The Merchant of Venice* (Norton Critical Editions 2006)

Other texts:

- Hakluyt, *Voyages and Discoveries* (Penguin Classics 2006)
- Beaumont, *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* (Methuen 2002)

Course Requirements:

Attendance and participation (including contributions to class discussions and to the overall intellectual climate of the course) are mandatory. More than one absence will affect your grade. You cannot pass the class if you miss three or more classes.
(15% of final grade)

Research Assignments (85 % of final grade):

- 5-7 page paper that incorporates one of the critical/theoretical approaches covered between Sept. 7 and Sept. 21
- Final Research Project: An 8-10 page conference paper to be distributed over email and discussed in class on Nov. 30 and Dec. 7. The paper should develop an innovative thesis and define its contribution to scholarship on early modern drama and/or travel writing. A final version of the paper (no more than 15 pages), incorporating class feedback, should be submitted to me by email on or before December 12.

-A 250 word abstract for your conference paper (summarizing the argument and its contribution to the field). You are encouraged to submit this abstract to an academic conference CFP (call for papers)

-EEBO (Early Modern English Books Online) Project: You will be asked to locate, analyze, and summarize early modern English accounts of Spain, Spanish colonization, or Anglo-Iberian relations using digital facsimiles of 16th and 17th century printed documents archived on EEBO. You will give a brief presentation based on your findings and provide a handout that includes an overview of your research and a summary of the documents (at least three).

-A bibliography of 12 critical works on a topic related to *Othello*. 6 entries must be annotated (contain a brief---3 sentences---summary of argument).

Online Resources

-*Oxford English Dictionary Online* (historical dictionary available via library databases—use this to look up sixteenth and seventeenth-century meanings of words)

-Luminarium: www.luminarium.org (independent scholarly website; includes texts and scholarly essays as well as links to other online resources)

-Project Muse (library database for humanities and social sciences)

-MLA International Bibliography (library database for modern languages and literature)

-JSTOR (library database for humanities, arts, sciences, and social sciences)

-The Early Modern Drama Database

<http://homepage.mac.com/tomdalekeever/earlymodern.html>

-Renaissance Women Online

<http://www.wwp.brown.edu/about/RWOoverview.html>

-Voice of the Shuttle (guide to online humanities research)

<http://vos.ucsb.edu/>

- The English Dept. at the University of Pennsylvania's CFP (calls for papers) List and Archive <http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/>

Selected Bibliography

Abrams, A Glossary of Literary Terms

Altick, Richard D. and John J. Fenstermaker. *The Art of Literary Research*. 4th ed. New York: Norton, 1993. Print.

Culler, Jonathan. *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford UP, 1997. Print.

Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. 2nd ed. Minneapolis, MN: U of Minnesota Press, 1996. Print.

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook*. 6th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2003. Print.

Harner, James L. *Literary Research Guide: An Annotated Listing of Reference Sources in English Literary Studies*. 3rd ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1998. Print.

Harris, Jonathan Gil. *Shakespeare and Literary Theory*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2010. Print.

Rivkin, Julie and Michael Ryan, eds. *Literary Theory: An Anthology*. 2nd ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2004. Print.

Ryan, Michael. *Literary Theory: A Practical Introduction*. 2nd ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007. Print.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Sept. 2: Introduction

Eagleton, "What is Literature?"

Sept. 7: *Hamlet*, Close Reading with the OED, Intro. to Critical Approaches

-*Hamlet*, acts 1-3

-Wofford, "A Critical History of *Hamlet*" (in Bedford edition, pp.181-207)

Sept. 14: *Hamlet* and Theory (Psychoanalytic Criticism and New Historicism)

-*Hamlet*, acts 4-5

-Janet Adelman, "'Man and Wife is One Flesh': *Hamlet* and the Confrontation with the Maternal Body" (256-282)

-Karin S. Coddon, "'Such Strange Desygns': Madness, Subjectivity, and Treason in *Hamlet* and Elizabethan Culture" (380-402)

Sept. 21: *Hamlet* and Theory (Feminist Criticism, Marxist Criticism, and Ecocriticism)

-Elaine Showalter, "Representing Ophelia: Women, Madness, and the Responsibilities of Feminist Criticism" (220-240)

-Michael D. Bristol, "'Funeral Bak'd-Meats': Carnival and the Carnavalesque in *Hamlet*" (348-367)

-Steve Mentz, "Preface" to *At the Bottom of Shakespeare's Ocean* (handout)

*Bring to class a list of four scholarly journals that publish articles in your (tentative) area of specialization. Your list should include the name of the journal and a brief description of its focus or specialty (what kind of scholarship does it seek to showcase within your field)? Ex: a journal of Victorian studies that is especially interested in textual criticism or a Shakespeare studies journal with a focus on performance studies.

Sept. 28: Early Modern Venice and the Discourse of Difference

*Rosh Hashanah (class to be rescheduled)

-*Merchant of Venice*, Acts 1, 2, 3

-Review early modern documents on Jews and Venice.

Oct. 5: Race, Religion, and Sexuality

-*Merchant of Venice*, Acts 4 & 5

-Criticism on Race, Religion, and Sexuality (pp. 270-303 in Norton)

First Essay Due

Oct. 12: Holiday

Oct. 19: Early Modern Ethnographies

-Hakluyt, Selections from *Voyages and Discoveries*

-Joan Pau Rubiés, "Travel Writing and Ethnography," *Cambridge Companion to Travel Writing* (handout).

-Homi K. Bhabha, excerpt from *The Location of Culture*

Oct. 26: Spain and the Black Legend

- Hakluyt, Selections from *Voyages and Discoveries*

- Excerpt from Bartolomé de Las Casas, *Una brevisima relación* in the 1583 English translation, *The Spanish Colonie*

- Eric Griffin, "From Ethos to Ethnos: Hispanizing 'the Spaniard' in the Old World and the New" *The New Centennial Review* 2.1 (2002) 69-116. (available on Project Muse).

*Bring to class a list of 4 academic conferences in your area of specialization to be held within the next year.

Nov. 2: Anglo-Iberian Relations and Encounters

- EEBO Project Presentations

TBA

Nov. 9: Holiday

Nov. 16: Gender and Race

- *Othello*, acts 1-3

*Annotated Bibliography Due

Nov. 23: Material Culture

- *Othello*, acts 4- 5

Excerpt from Jonathan Gil Harris's *Untimely Matter* (handout)

*Abstract for Final Project Due

Nov. 30: Don Quixote in England

- *Knight of the Burning Pestle*

- Clark Colahan, "Shelton and the Farcical Perception of *Don Quixote* in Seventeenth-Century Britain."

*Email Final Research Project (8-10 page conference paper) to me and the members of your class.

Dec. 7 Don Quixote, Spanish Romance, and English Drama

- *Knight of the Burning Pestle*

- Trudi L. Darby and Alexander Samson, "Cervantes on the Jacobean Stage" (handout)

*Discussion of Final Research Projects (in-class feedback)

*Revision of Final Research Paper Due on December 12 (email to me by 5pm)